DC

JUSTICE LEAGUE TASK FORCE 1 JUN 93

MICHELINIE, VELLUTO & ALBRECHT

JUSTICE LEAGUE® TASK FORCE™

1ST ISSUE!

JOIN THE JLTF INSIDE!

Sal Velluto 93

TASK FORCE

THE TYRANNY GUN!

ON EARTH--

--FOR REASONS OF CONVENIENCE--

--HE'S TAKEN THE NAME "J'ONN J'ONZZ."

BUT TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, HE'S KNOWN FAR BETTER AS MARTIAN MANHUNTER!

HERE'S WHY!

TOOK NEARLY A MONTH TO TRACK THEM TO MONTREAL.

FRENCH SEPARATISTS-- RADICALS WHO WANT QUEBEC TO SECEDE FROM CANADA.

BEEN USING THIS TOY WAREHOUSE AS A FRONT, AN ORIGIN POINT FOR DISTRIBUTING WEAPONS TO SPLINTER GROUPS AROUND THE PROVINCE.

"POLITICALLY CORRECT" MURDER.

AH. THE MOBILE CONTINGENT.

MON DIEU! THAT FORKLIFT!

H-HE ISN'T GOING TO THROW IT--?!

JUST A LITTLE.

KROMSH

WHILE ABOVE...

ENFER! OUR OPERATION, IN PIECES!

BLOOD WILL FLOW FOR THIS!

B-BUT, YOU PROMISED--!

A NEW ERA IN JUSTICE LEAGUE EXCITEMENT BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

DAVID MICHELINIE~WRITER
SAL VELLUTO~PENCILLER
JEFF ALBRECHT~INKER
BOB PINAHA~LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE~COLORIST
RUBEN DIAZ~ASST. EDITOR
BRIAN AUGUSTYN~EDITOR

YOU SAID IF WE *COOPERATED*, YOU WOULD NOT *HARM* US!

YOUR FACILITIES HAVE BEEN *USEFUL*, *MONSIEUR*. BUT THERE IS ONE FURTHER FAVOR I REQUIRE.

SOMEONE'S IN THE OFFICE!

THANK HEAVEN YOU'VE COME, *MONSIEUR MANHUNTER*!

WE'VE BEEN HELD *HOSTAGE* FOR WEEKS! BUT, THE LEADER--

--HE FLED ONLY *MOMENTS* AGO! YOU MUST CAPTURE HIM! *HURRY!*

CALL THE POLICE.

I'LL BE BACK.

BON! YOU DID WELL. BUT OUR *CAUSE* IS *MORE* IMPORTANT THAN INDIVIDUAL LIVES.

REGRETTABLY, I CANNOT AFFORD TO LEAVE ANY WHO COULD *IDENTIFY*--

--ME?

KRAK

KRUNCH

WHLMF?!

KRATCH

BRRAM

MARTIAN EYES HAVE *ADVANTAGES*: SEEING THROUGH SOLID OBJECTS, LIKE *FILE CABINETS*, IS JUST ONE OF THEM.

W-WE DIDN'T *WANT* TO HELP HIM!

HE THREATENED OUR LIVES--!

I KNOW. MY INVESTIGATION SHOWS YOU AND YOUR WIFE TO BE MODEL CITIZENS.

I'LL BE HAPPY TO WAIT FOR AUTHORITIES, AND DISCUSS IT WITH THEM.

THERE ISN'T MUCH JUSTICE IN THIS WORLD. PERHAPS THAT'S WHY IT'S *SO* SATISFYING--

--TO OCCASIONALLY *MAKE* SOME.

INTERLUDE: SANOBEL ISLAND.

A PEACEFUL GREEN DOT IN THE CARIBBEAN.

WHERE SILENCE...

OOOOOOOOOSSSSSSSSSHHHHHHHH!

...SUDDENLY...

...KILLS!

WHAT'D I TELL YA, CAP'N SIERRA? COWS, TREES, GRASS-- NOTHIN' BUT GOO!

COAST IS CLEAR.

BLIMEY, BLITZ, WE KIN SEE THAT!

CARE TA MAKE YER OWN INSPECTION, CAP'N?

MADRE DE DIOS! THE WEAPON YOU OFFER, COUNT GLASS--

--THE ONE THAT PROJECTS DEATH FROM MILES AWAY, IS ALL YOU SAID! BUT...

ENRIQUE RAMOS AIN'T HUMAN, MATE!

HE'S A DICTATOR! HANGS FOLKS FER LOOKIN' AT 'IM SIDEWAYS! DON'TCHA WANNA SAVE YER PEOPLE FROM AN ANIMAL LIKE HIM?

OF COURSE! WE ARE FREEDOM FIGHTERS! BUT...

I KNOW THE DECISION IS DIFFICULT, RAFAEL! BUT PERHAPS, MY BROTHER--

6

--THE MERE THREAT OF SUCH A DEVICE WILL BE ENOUGH!

LET US HOPE SO, PABLO. WE CANNOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO EVER SINK TO RAMOS'S LEVEL!

YER DREAMIN', YA SELF-RIGHTEOUS PRIG!

AN' I'M YER BLOODY WAKE-UP CALL!

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INTERLUDE SHIFT: WASHINGTON, D.C.

THIS IS IT, MARI! I CAN TASTE THE ESCARGOTS EN BEURRE ALREADY!

ON YOUR DIET, HANNIBAL? DR. MATHERS WOULD COUGH A FURBALL IF YOU EVEN SMELLED SNAILS IN BUTTER!

NO MATTER. JUST BEING AROUND THE WORLD'S FINEST CUISINE WILL BE ENOUGH!

THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR-SHIP! IT'S WHAT I'VE WORKED FOR ALL THESE YEARS!

DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP TOO HIGH, SIR.

NONSENSE! WHY ELSE WOULD THE FOREIGN OFFICE CALL THIS SPECIAL MEETING, IF NOT TO ANNOUNCE--AH, HERE WE ARE!

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MEETING ROOM 308

GOOD MORNING, MR. MARTIN, MS. BOWES. THANK YOU FOR COMING.

IF YOU'LL TAKE YOUR SEATS, WE'LL GET STARTED.

SPECIAL AGENT HARKINS WILL FILL YOU IN.

FIRST SLIDE, GENERAL.

THIS, MR. MARTIN, IS SANOBEL ISLAND, A STRATEGICALLY VITAL U.S. ALLY.

WE'VE RECENTLY LEARNED THAT REBEL FACTIONS PLAN TO ASSASSINATE ITS LEADER.

AMERICAN INTERESTS DICTATE THAT WE PROTECT PRESIDENT RAMOS--

--BUT SENDING IN A HIGH-PROFILE GROUP, LIKE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, COULD PROVE POLITICALLY AWKWARD DUE TO...AH...

...CERTAIN RATHER SEVERE POLICIES REGARDING DISSIDENT FACTIONS.

WHAT WE NEED IS A HAND-PICKED STRIKE FORCE OF LEAGUE MEMBERS--

--SENT IN ON A "SURGICAL" MISSION TO REMOVE RAMOS'S ENEMIES WITHOUT UNDUE PUBLICITY.

BECAUSE, MR. MARTIN, YOU ARE THE MAN WE'VE CHOSEN TO HEAD THIS SPECIAL PROJECT!

THAT'S ALL VERY INTERESTING, AGENT HARKINS, BUT WHY TELL ME?

I...EG-GULPE... AM?!

N-NATURALLY, GENTLEMEN, I'M *FLATTERED!* BUT I CAN THINK OF ANY NUMBER OF MY POLITICAL OPPON-- ER, *COLLEAGUES*-- WHO WOULD BE EMINENTLY MORE SUITED TO--

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT, MR. MARTIN. A PLUM, AS IT WERE.

YOU WOULDN'T WANT YOUR STATE DEPARTMENT RECORD TO SHOW THAT YOU WERE *UNGRATEFUL*... WOULD YOU?

UNGRATE-FUL?

OOOOOOH, NO.

I ACCEPT!

MOMENTS LATER, OUTSIDE...

THOSE BRASS-BRAINED, BLACK-MAILING *FERRETS!* I'VE AS MUCH INTEREST IN MUSCLE-BOUND *DO-GOODERS* AS I HAVE IN THE HISTORY OF *LINT!*

BUT I'VE LITTLE CHOICE...

...TAKE THIS ASSIGNMENT... OR KISS MY POLITICAL CAREER *BON SOIR!*

SO I'LL GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT...

...A SUCCESS! *A TRIUMPH!* AND IF THE COSTUMED BUFFOONS IN MY CHARGE DON'T LIKE THE WAY I *DO* THINGS, WELL...

...PERHAPS I'LL EVEN ENJOY MYSELF!

SHRROOOM

REPRISE: SANOBEL ISLAND.

YOUR DEMONSTRATION WAS, HOW SHALL I SAY...

...SOBERING. BUT HOW--?

LIKE I TOLD YA, CAP'N, IT WORKS WITH A SLIVER OF ORE WHAT WAS FOUND IN SIBERIA A COUPLA YEARS AGO, ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND!

SOME SAY IT FELL FROM SPACE! ME...? I DON'T GIVE A FIG!

NOT SO LONG AS IT *VIBRATES* WHEN WE PUT ELECTRICITY THROUGH IT!

'CAUSE WHEN THE CURRENT EXCITES IT ENOUGH, IT GIVES OFF ENERGY THIS HERE ZAPPER CAN *PROJECT!*

AN' ANYTHIN' *ORGANIC* GETS IN THE WAY-- PHFFFFT!

BUT IF YOU CAN'T FOCUS IT INTO A NARROW BEAM, BYSTANDERS COULD BE *KILLED!*

GOR'! AN' I THOUGHT YA HAD THE GUTS TA BREAK A FEW EGGS! THAT'S WHY I *PICKED* YA! IF YA DON'T--!

NO! SANOBEL MUST BE SAVED! I'LL DO... WHAT I MUST.

NOW THAT'S *MORE LIKE* IT!

RAFAEL! GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS! RIGHT BEHIND M--

CHAKACHAKACHAK

BLITZ--!

I'M ON IT, COUNT!

BOLT GENERATOR ACTIVATED!

TARGET LOCKED!

SHZAK

PERSONNEL CARRIER! BULLETS CAN'T STOP IT!

WHUSH

BRAKSNCH

WHO NEEDS BULLETS WHEN YA GOT A WIND CANNON!

HAW!

THEY FLEE!

WE'VE WON!

SAVE THE CELEBRATION! OUR LOCATION IS KNOWN!

PREPARE TO MOVE OUT!

IT'S, AH, OVER, THEN?

OVER AN' DONE, COUNT! I BLAZED 'EM, BLASTED 'EM, AN BLEW 'EM AWAY! WITH THIS ARMOR--

YER FORGETTIN' WHO GAVE YA THEM BLOODY TOYS! I MADE YA, YA TOAD! WHERE'S YER RESPECT?

I...I'M SORRY, SIR. I-I DIDN'T MEAN TO BRAG.

HMPH. THAT'S BETTER.

A BLOKE'S GOTTA KNOW 'IS PLACE...!

UPSTATE NEW YORK, AS EVENING FALLS...

HOME. I ONCE HEARD A COMEDIAN CALL IT "A PLACE TO KEEP YOUR STUFF."

APROPOS, IN A WAY.

THIS IS WHERE I KEEP THE STUFF OF MY LIFE.

MY MEMORIES, MY DREAMS. IT'S THE ONE PLACE I CAN TRULY BE--

--MYSELF!

HEHUM

MOST OF THE TIME...

SORRY TO INTRUDE--THE DOORS WEREN'T LOCKED.

BUT I DON'T SUPPOSE COMMON *BURGLARS* WORRY YOU OVER MUCH.

FORGIVE ME--I'M *HANNIBAL MARTIN*. AND I'VE BEEN SENT FROM WASHINGTON TO ASK YOU TO HELP SELECT A *STRIKE TEAM* OF YOUR FELLOW JUSTICE LEAGUE MEMBERS--

--AND THEN TO *LEAD* THAT TEAM ON A VERY SPECIAL MISSION.

LIVES WILL DEPEND ON THE OUTCOME. PERHAPS, ULTIMATELY--

--MILLIONS OF LIVES!

YOU HAVE MY ATTENTION, MR. MARTIN.

LONDON, TWO NIGHTS LATER.

THE BATTERSEA POWER STATION ROCKS!

P-BOOOM

WHO MADE THIS THING?

AND WHY IS IT TRYING TO PUT LONDON IN A PERMANENT BLACKOUT?

AQUAMAN'S RIGHT! WE HAVE TO STOP IT BEFORE MORE CIVILIANS ARE KILLED!

QUESTIONS CAN WAIT!

GOT IT!

CAN'T BITE WHAT IT CAN'T SEE!

SKWEEEK

RALPH--!

GOT IT, KARA!

FOX! HIT THE JUICE!

KLL-LL-LLLK

IT'S A SHAME WE HAD TO...KILL IT.

AND, HOURS LATER, AT THE RENTED CASTLE SERVING AS HEADQUARTERS FOR JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE...

=PheeYOO!=

HEADS UP, GUYS! MESSAGE COMING IN ON THE SHIELDED U.N. CHANNEL!

AT LAST COUNT, DR. LIGHT, IT HAD KILLED FOURTEEN HUMANS!

NO ONE EVER SAID BEING A HERO WAS FULL-TIME FUN.

GEEZ, AQUAMAN, THANKS FOR THE HELP IN THE SEWERS, BUT--

--COULD YOU MAYBE TAKE ANOTHER SHOWER?

PLEASE?

SOON...

--HAS BEEN SANCTIONED BY THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE *HIGHEST* LEVEL. YOUR FULL COOPERATION IS EXPECTED.

MR. J'ONZZ HAS ADVISED ME THAT THE TWO OPERATIVES *MOST LIKELY TO ASSURE* SUCCESS WOULD BE *AQUAMAN AND THE FLASH.*

YOU SAY WORLD PEACE COULD BE AT STAKE, MR. MARTIN?

IN A WORST-CASE SCENARIO, AQUAMAN... YES.

I DON'T LIKE IT. "GO HERE! DO THAT!" WHAT ARE WE, A BUNCH OF *TRAINED MONKEYS?*

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT THIS JOB NOT ALWAYS BEING *FUN?*

IT ISN'T UP TO US TO CHOOSE. IF I'M NEEDED... IF I CAN HELP... I'LL BE THERE!

YEAH. I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

I'M IN!

THE NEXT DAY, MANHATTAN'S EAST SIDE...

...WHERE A FIERY WOMAN KNOWN AS GYPSY IS TREATED TO A REALITY CHECK.

THAT DOES IT! THE STARES I DON'T MIND, BUT THE HOOTS ARE GETTING ON MY NERVES!

HEY, IS DA CIRCUS IN TOWN?

IT'S TIME FOR A NEW LOOK!

MEGA THREADS, BABE!

SIXTIES RETRO?

MIGHT BE EASIER IF I HAD MONEY, BUT, HEY--I'VE NEVER LET THAT STOP ME BEFORE!

VISA

WELCOME

PUSH

SHORTLY...

AND ORDER THE CHROMIUM SHEEP FOR THAT NEW DISPLAY IN--

--EEEEEK!

TH-THAT THING! THAT HIDEOUS, WRETCHED, PATCHWORK THING! WHAT'S IT DOING IN MY WINDOW?!

NEVER MIND! HAVE IT REMOVED! BURNED! DISINTEGRATED!

I'LL BE IN MY OFFICE HAVING A NICE FAINT...!

UP TO YOUR OLD TRICKS AGAIN, GYPSY?

WHAT? B-BUT HOW--?!

HAVING PSYCHIC TALENTS MAKES FINDING PEOPLE A LITTLE EASIER. BESIDES--

--YOU DON'T THINK A GREEN FACE WOULD FOOL ME, DID YOU?

J'ONN!

I'VE COME TO RECRUIT YOU FOR A SPECIAL JUSTICE LEAGUE MISSION. WE NEED YOU.

I...I DON'T KNOW. LAST TIME I WORKED WITH THE LEAGUE--

--MY PARENTS WERE KILLED!

I UNDERSTAND, GYPSY, AND I SYMPATHIZE. BUT I HEARD HOW THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT WITH THE CONGLOMERATE. YOU'RE OUT OF A JOB.

I'M OFFERING A WAY OFF THE STREET.

ROOM, BOARD, A FINANCIAL STIPEND... AND MAYBE A LITTLE STABILITY FOR YOUR LIFE.

HM. YOU DO HAVE A POINT. TELL YOU WHAT: MAYBE IF YOU THREW IN A LITTLE... OH...SIGNING BONUS?

DARKNESS DESCENDS ON NEW YORK, BRINGING A PROMISE OF STORM.

WHILE AT A HIGHLY SECURED BUILDING ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE...

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD THANK YOU FOR COMING--

--BUT BEING HERE IS *YOUR JOB*, AS IT IS MINE. AND IF WE ALL *DO* THAT JOB, WE CAN FINISH THIS LITTLE DETOUR--

--AND GET ON WITH *OUR LIVES!*

THEN, WE GO WITH *FOUR?*

WHAT CHOICE DO WE HAVE?

I ADMIT THE *BATMAN'S* CLANDESTINE APTITUDES COULD PROVE AN ASSET--

--BUT MR. "DARK KNIGHT" HASN'T RESPONDED TO OUR MESSAGES! PROBABLY LUBING THE *BATMOBILE* OR SOME SUCH--

ACTUALLY, BATMAN'S KIND OF BUSY MAKING *GOTHAM* A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE! BUT MAYBE--

...I'LL DO!

NIGHTWING!

I'M IMPRESSED. A *WHISPER* WOULD HAVE TROUBLE GETTING INTO THIS BUILDING WITHOUT TRIPPING ALARMS!

I HAD A GOOD TEACHER--

--BUT I'M *MY OWN MAN* NOW.

AND I HEARD YOU MIGHT BE NEEDING SOMEONE WITH MY SKILLS.

THANKS, ALFRED!

HMM, I DON'T KNOW...

MR. MARTIN, I HAVE TO PROTEST! NIGHTWING ISN'T EVEN A MEMBER OF THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE!*

SEE TITANS #97--BRIAN

AS A TITAN, HIS LOYALTY ISN'T WITH *US!* HOW DO WE KNOW HE'LL FIT IN?

AW, COME ON GUYS...

HE *DOES* HAVE A REPUTATION FOR GRANDSTANDING.

THEN WE ALL AGREE:

WE DON'T *LIKE* IT!

HOW SAD--BECAUSE *YOU'RE* GOING TO LIKE *THIS* EVEN LESS:

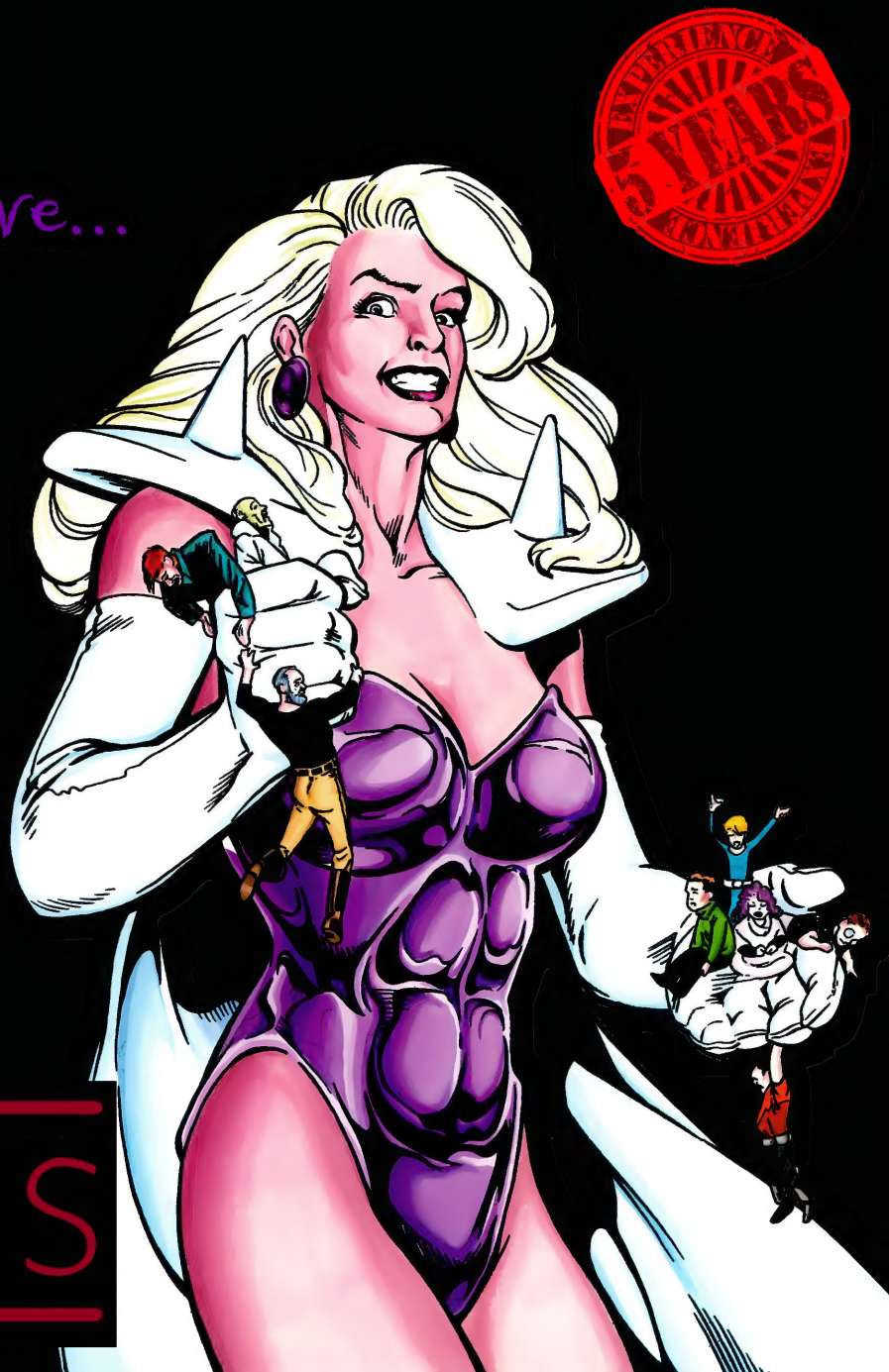
THE MISSION I'M ABOUT TO ASSIGN YOU IS TO SEE THAT SOME SO-CALLED "GOOD-GUYS"--THAT IS, FORCES FOR PEACE, FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS--*LOSE!*

OH, AND BY THE WAY--NIGHTWING?

YOU'RE *IN!*

NEXT ISSUE: ASSAULT ON SANOBEL ISLAND!

From Baaldur, with love...



GLORITH

novus